

Chickens don't have holidays.

Chicken Talk



Isa (Brown) – You know I'm really in need of a holiday, I'm exhausted.

Araucana – Haven't you heard, chickens don't have holidays! I have it on good authority from the Chicken Teacher. I overheard her telling the researcher the other day that because we don't have holidays we have to be looked after for the whole year!

Isa – Yeah well every now and then I wish I was those cows that visit next door. I mean they only come in for a few weeks every year and then they go off and have a holiday. We have to work all year round!

Araucana – Well that's because their program is different to ours. Their students only study them for a term. We are more important than them, our students have us all year. We're a little like pets in the classroom, but we're not actually in the classroom.

Isa – Actually we began in the classroom, remember how we were incubated and then hatched. The students just loved us when we came out all cute and fluffy (once we'd dried). They would pick us up and carefully stroke us and they gave us those silly names but I really did like the attention.

Araucana – The talk was interesting back then. It was all about the conditions needed for hatching and how to look after us: 'chicken welfare'.

Isa – That's right, I'd forgotten that, but I do remember when they started looking at our egg production - 'economics' they called it. It was all a bit stressful as I'd just started laying eggs and even though I'm a good layer I felt the pressure to produce more. They were costing how much it was to feed us compared to how many eggs we produced, and then they followed the path of the eggs to sale point, something like that. Mind you I'm surprised we've still got that bantam, such tiny eggs, not much value for money there!

Araucana – Then the ducks arrived and their students visit them, like our students visit us. In fact we're all really lucky because they come over and check our feed and water, they're learning how to look after animals responsibly, and doing a wonderful job. The duck students look so official in their lab coats.

Isa – I think it gives them a sense of importance about the job they're doing so they put in that little bit of extra effort.

Araucana – I think we're good for them emotionally you know, some of them are over here when they feel a little lost or just need time out. It's like we've hung a sign on the door 'Come in and talk to a chook'. They know we just listen and don't answer back.

Isa – Well I heard the Chicken Teacher tell the researcher that we help keep the students engaged and we make their learning relevant. Teachers are always on the lookout for 'engaged' students; they're so much easier to teach apparently.

Araucana – We've also been used for Design and Technology. In the early days the students had to design a chook shed. Remember, they did it shortly after we hatched but we only needed one house so they couldn't use that idea again until this new opportunity with the Heritage people came along. It was easier for the Chicken Teacher this time; I've noticed teachers always feel more comfortable when they can use something they've done before.

Isa – But it hasn't all been about Design and Technology over the last few years. Science has played a big part. To be a top chicken farmer you need to have a good handle on all things science!

Araucana – That's right, in the early days there was always a little bit of science with the incubation and animal welfare link, but the last few years with the science specialists it really flew. Our specialist wrote a whole new science unit JUST FOR US. I've never been prouder, the students got to know us more intimately than ever before.

Isa – Intimate alright, that bit about the chicken gizzards was almost too close for comfort. It was full on ... they investigated... how we behave, our physiological features and chicken welfare ... they dissected eggs and wings, labelled parts and structure, made models of our digestive system, discussed selective breeding and why some of us don't fly ... Phew... it was full on, I'm exhausted just thinking about it ... so many science links and concepts all from us!

Araucana – Well the Chicken Teacher says, if we're here and in front of her, it's easy to incorporate us into the curriculum but, she's not sure what will happen if she moves levels.

Isa – What do you mean? I thought she'd always be our teacher! Alert, Alert ... Do you think we could move with the teacher, it might be nice to have Grade 2s look after us and we might learn something different...



A huge thank-you to Anne Frazer who has given us permission to use this edited extract from her Research Paper: Introducing Agriculture to Curriculum - Community partnerships and school science in a rural setting(2016). Anne Frazer Bachelor of Pharmacy (Victorian College of Pharmacy) Bachelor of Teaching P-12 (Deakin University) Master of Education (Deakin University)

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<http://www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au/>



TAP 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

The TAP is a partnership between Timboon P-12 School, regional industries, businesses and community with over 343 individual contributors providing direct curriculum assistance since the TAP began in mid 2012



TAP's On! 2017– our annual curriculum expo.

So...Producing food on Mars, determining how many people it takes to create a hamburger, tutelage by award winning journalist Simone Smith, exploring probability via chooks, learning about the potential of businesses in this area with the Pop up Market feature and Mark Cuthall from Port Campbell Tourism. What else? The Connies imparted knowledge about biodiversity, plant prints were created, lizards, turtles and a snake were classified, a trip in the Tardis taught us about the evolution of our volcanic region, a destination in dairy was established, robotic coding was demonstrated and students were introduced to Farm Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality with THINK.DIGITAL among a host of other activities. The Pop Up markets featured local foodies as way of showcasing the magnificent produce and businesses in our region including Timboon Peanut Butter, Go Nuts on the Great Ocean Road, the Corangamite Shire Fire Safety game, Heytesbury and District Landcare, Timboon Fine Ice Cream, Kangarooie Beef, Great Ocean Ducks, Timboon Berry World and our Lavender on TAP. Almost five hundred students from Timboon P-12 School and Simpson Primary School participated in the series of peer lead workshops and displays held at Timboon in a celebration of our exciting agriculture based curriculum. Once again, we are very grateful to the Gall Family Foundation for their support of TAP's On! 2017.



Timboon P-12 School
Strength Through Understanding

TAP - MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

January LEGENDAIRY Teacher

"I'm very proud to be part of 'TAP' and involved with Dairy Australia's link into education. Timboon P-12's amazing TAP program, which has been recognised at the Victorian Education Excellence awards has definitely changed how I teach and my appreciation for the dairy industry and farmers. My appreciation and thanks go to Andrea Vallance and all those who have supported me and let me go with my crazy ideas. I can not wait to kick off 2017. So many new exciting things coming for the Year 4's. Who would have thought this 'princess' would end up loving cows" ~ Melissa Berry Self-confessed 'townie' Melissa Berry from Timboon VIC is as surprised as anyone that she's found inspiration in the dairy industry. Read her #legendairy story here: <http://bit.ly/2iz8kc1>

February Cows Create Careers-Nutrition 101

Andy Powell and James Maxwell (WCB) were invited into the Year 7/8 science elective Cows Create Careers students' classroom to explain about the role of starch and fibre in a cow's diet and how it was balanced in a dairy cow's daily ration. Our guests described the different feed requirements of a cow at various stages of her lactation and the importance of fully feeding cows. Students determined balanced rations for a milking cow including the DM (Dry Matter) of grass, turnips, wheat, silage etc. and even balanced the rations for a student's dairy herd to reinforce their understanding of the topic.

March Bee Happy.



To demonstrate their learning about bees, honey and apiculture, Year 9 Science students designed posters to educate other students about their investigation of energy transfer, how honey is produced and how organisms interact in their environment. Denis Horne passed on his knowledge and tips about beekeeping. Students were able to: remove the wax caps off the honey combs formed on the frames, spin the frames to extract the honey, sieve, taste and bottle fresh honey. Dressed 'top-to-toe' in beekeeping outfits students: operated the smoke machine (bee distraction), lifted the lid on the hive, separated the top 'honey' box from the 'brood box' and pulled out frames full of bees to look for the queen bee. After an informative session we have some budding beekeepers in our midst.

April Chook Cuddles



A group of Year 5/6 students were fortunate enough to be able to introduce some of their chickens to Timboon and District Healthcare Service Planned Activity Group members and welcomed the opportunity to compare chicken stories with the participants. The students introduced themselves and 'their girls', with lots of chook cuddles and afternoon tea shared.

May Farm Science-Paddock to Plate

After their visits to a processor and supermarket, the Year 4 TAP into Farm Science students travelled to see where their Paddock to Plate journey could begin. Students visited a beef and prime lamb property of where they learnt about farm maps, healthy pastures, beef farming and sheep and wool. At a dairy farm students investigated animal health, water recycling, the dairy plant and effluent recycling. Students were challenged with questions posed by the guest presenters at the conclusion of their workshop sessions with thanks to everyone involved. What a wonderful hands-on way to learn about the science around us!

June Science and Engineering Challenge

Congratulations to Mr Mottram and the Year 10 Science/Engineering students as winners of the Great South Coast Science and Engineering Challenge! The points accumulated by our team mean that we are the second best Challenge team in Victoria - not bad for a small rural school. Thanks to Deakin University, the University of Newcastle and local Rotary Clubs for bringing these STEM opportunities to regional Victoria.



TAP - MAKING THE CONNECTIONS



July TAP into Farm Maps

Drone footage is utilized to introduce our Year 8 students to their Maths in Farm Design unit of work which challenges students to investigate the design of large dairy farms and requires them to use their measurement skills to answer questions about the design and operational efficiency of the farms. Students undertake a variety of tasks including interpreting the scale of a farm map, working out distances cows travel, the stocking rate, the materials and costs involved in fencing the farm, the paddock sizes and total farm area, and are required to redesign the farm layout to improve the operational efficiency of the dairy business. Students also have the option to use their own family business or other farm maps to complete these investigations allowing students to build STEM capacity with problem solving in their immediate environment.



August Sheepvention 2017



The Maths and Science staff ran an excellent excursion to Sheepvention in Hamilton as part of the Year 7 TAP curriculum in Maths. Students had to research the shearing of a sheep – how long does it take to shear three sheep, the average time per sheep, how much a shearer gets paid per sheep – to researching the products on offer and how they would save the farmer time and money. Science examinations included investigating simple machines which used levers, ramps, wedges, wheel/axles, gears or pulleys and more compound machines which are made up of two or more simple machines. Examples of simple and compound machines at the Sheepvention site included shears, spinning wheels, wool presses and a Lucas Saw Mill.



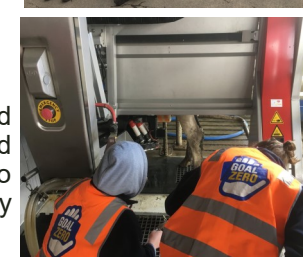
September Push and Pull

Should a skid steer (Bobcat) and an excavator be a part of a TAP Year 1/2 'Push and Pull' Science class? Of course they should, especially if Tim and Beth Roberts are on hand to challenge students to observe the mechanisms that make these machines work. Students were then able to notice which parts of the skid steer and excavator 'pushed and pulled' to allow the machines to work on farms and in our community. Thanks Tim and Beth!



October Robotic Technology in Action

The Year 7/8 Collaborative Coding class were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Phil and Symone Vines robotic dairy as many students in rural Victoria do not have the chance to see world class robotic technology in action. Phil and Symone outlined the reasons behind their decision to introduce the Lely Astronaut robots and discussed the benefits and implications of the voluntary milking system and the impact on cow health and milk production.



November World Class Genetics

The Year 10 students were privileged to see the use of world class genetics in action when they visited Garry and Lee Hibberd's 'Cooriemungle Holsteins' dairy farm. Garry explained that breeding was very important to their business and that their enterprise uses embryo flushing and embryo transfers from high genetic merit international dams to maximize genetic gain in their herd. Peter Younis from The Vet Group explained the procedure and students were able to see how an ultrasound is used to guide the placement of the catheter to place the embryos into recipient cows. Lee outlined the use of calf hutches to maximize the health of the resulting calves and the use of the cow barn for their high genetic merit cows to ensure that they had the best possible conditions for their 3 times a day milking.



December TAP Lavender Harvest



December marks the start of the 2018 lavender harvest. This year the TAP lavender was introduced at the annual Timboon Artisans Market by Commerce teacher, Carolyne Wakefield, who outlined the place of Timboon P12 School's lavender farm in the school curriculum and showcased student goods such as heat packs, lavender bags, distilled oil, body cream and lavender sprays.



Visit the tap blog: <http://timboonagproject.weebly.com/>

See highlights from previous years at [http://www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au/page/206/Timboon-Agriculture-Project-\(TAP\)](http://www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au/page/206/Timboon-Agriculture-Project-(TAP))